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AUTHENTIC
ACCOUNT
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CONGRESS

HELD AT
NEW-YORK,
IN MDCCLXV, R.

On the SUBJECT of the
AMERICAN STAMP ACT.

MDCCLXVII.

[Price One Shilling.]

20



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CONGRESS
AT
NEW-YORK.

Boston, *June* 1765.

S I R,

THE House of Representatives of this province, in the present session of the general court, have unanimously agreed to propose a meeting, as soon as may be, of COMMITTEES, from the houses of representatives or burgeses of the several British colonies on this continent, to consult together on the present circumstances of the colonies, and the difficulties to which they are, and must be reduced, by the operation of the acts of parliament for levying duties and taxes on the colonies; and to consider of a general

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neral, and united, dutiful, loyal and humble representation of their condition, to his Majesty and the Parliament, and to implore relief. The house of representatives of this province have also voted to propose, That such meeting be at the city of New-York, in the province of New-York, on the first Tuesday in October next; and have appointed a committee of three of their members to attend that service, with such as the other houses of representatives, or burgeses, in the several colonies, may think fit to appoint to meet them. And the committee of the house of representatives of this province, are directed to repair to said New-York, on said first Tuesday in October next, accordingly.

If, therefore, your honourable house should agree to this proposal, it would be acceptable, that as early notice of it as possible, might be transmitted to the speaker of the house of representatives of this province.

SAMUEL WHITE, *Speaker.*

In consequence of the foregoing circular letter, the following gentlemen met at New-York, in the province of New-York, on Monday the seventh day of October, 1765, viz.

From

From the province of the Massachusetts-
bay,

JAMES OTIS,
OLIVER PATRIDGE, } Esquires.
TIMOTHY RUGGLES,

From the colony of Rhode-Island, and
Providence plantations,

METCALF BOWLER, } Esquires.
HENRY WARD,

From the colony of Connecticut,

ELIPHALET DYER,
DAVID ROWLAND, } Esquires.
WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON,

From the colony of New-York,

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON, }
JOHN CRUGER, } Esquires.
PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
WILLIAM BYARD,
LEONARD LISPENARD,

From the colony of New-Jersey,

ROBERT OGDEN, }
HENDRICK FISHER, } Esquires.
JOSEPH BORDEN,

From the Province of Pennsylvania.

JOHN DICKENSON, }
JOHN MORTON, } Esquires.
GEORGE BRYAN,

From

From the government of the counties
of Newcastle, Kent, and Suffex, on De-
laware,

CÆSAR RODNEY, } Esquires.
THOMAS M'KEAN, }

From the province of Maryland,
WILLIAM MURDOCK, }
EDWARD TILGHMAN, } Esquires.
THOMAS RINGGOLD, }

From the province of South-Carolina,
THOMAS LYNCH, }
CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN, } Esquires,
JOHN RUTLEDGE, }

Then the said committees proceeded to
chuse a chairman by ballot, and Timothy
Ruggles, esq; on sorting and counting the
votes, appeared to have a majority, and
thereupon was placed in the chair.

SATURDAY, October 19, 1765, A. M.

The congress met according to adjourn-
ment, and resumed, &c. as yesterday.
And, upon mature deliberation, agreed to
the following declarations of the rights
and grievances of the colonists in America,
which were ordered to be inserted.

The members of this congress, sincerely
devoted, with the warmest sentiments of
affection

affection and duty to his Majesty's person and government, inviolably attached to the present happy establishment of the Protestant succession, and with minds deeply impressed by a sense of the present and impending misfortunes of the British colonies on this continent; having considered as maturely as time will permit, the circumstances of the said colonies, esteem it our indispensable duty to make the following declarations of our humble opinion, respecting the most essential rights and liberties of the colonists, and of the grievances under which they labour, by reason of several late acts of parliament.

I. That his Majesty's subjects in these colonies, owe the same allegiance to the crown of Great-Britain, that is owing from his subjects born within the realm, and all due subordination to that august body the parliament of Great-Britain.

II. That his Majesty's liege subjects in these colonies, are entitled to all the inherent rights and liberties of his natural born subjects, within the kingdom of Great-Britain.

III. That it is inseparably essential to the freedom of a people, and the undoubted right of Englishmen, that no taxes be imposed on them but with their own consent, given personally, or by their representatives.

IV. That

IV. That the people of these colonies are not, and, from their local circumstances, cannot be, represented in the House of Commons in Great-Britain.

V. That the only representatives of the people of these colonies are persons chosen therein by themselves, and that no taxes ever have been, or can be constitutionally imposed on them, but by their respective legislature.

VI. That all supplies to the crown being free gifts of the people, it is unreasonable and inconsistent with the principles and spirit of the British constitution, for the people of Great-Britain to grant to his Majesty the property of the colonists.

VII. That trial by jury, is the inherent and invaluable right of every British subject in these colonies.

VIII. That the late act of parliament, entitled, *An act for granting and applying certain stamp-duties, and other duties, in the British colonies and plantations in America, &c.* by imposing taxes on the inhabitants of these colonies, and the said act, and several other acts, by extending the jurisdiction of the courts of admiralty beyond its ancient limits, have a manifest tendency to subvert the rights and liberties of the colonists.

IX. That the duties imposed by several late acts of parliament, from the peculiar

peculiar circumstances of these colonies, will be extremely burthensome and grievous; and from the scarcity of specie, the payment of them absolutely impracticable.

X. That as the profits of the trade of these colonies ultimately center in Great-Britain, to pay for the manufactures which they are obliged to take from thence, they eventually contribute very largely to all supplies granted there to the crown.

XI. That the restrictions imposed by several late acts of parliament on the trade of these colonies, will render them unable to purchase the manufactures of Great-Britain.

XII. That the increase, prosperity and happiness of these colonies, depend on the full and free enjoyments of their rights and liberties, and an intercourse with Great-Britain mutually affectionate and advantageous.

XIII. That it is the right of the British subjects in these colonies to petition the king, or either house of parliament.

Lastly, That it is the indispensable duty of these colonies, to the best of sovereigns, to the mother country, and to themselves, to endeavour by a loyal and dutiful address to his Majesty, and humble applications to both houses of parliament, to procure the repeal of the act for granting and applying certain stamp-du-

ties, of all clauses of any other acts of parliament, whereby the jurisdiction of the admiralty is extended as aforesaid, and of the other late acts for the restriction of American commerce.

Upon motion, voted, That Robert R. Livingston, William Samuel Johnson, and William Murdock, esquires, be a committee to prepare an address to his Majesty, and lay the same before the congress on Monday next.

Voted also, That John Rutledge, Edward Tilghman, and Philip Livingston, esquires, be a committee to prepare a memorial and petition to the lords in parliament, and lay the same before the congress on Monday next.

Voted also, That Thomas Lynch, James Otis, and Thomas M'Kean, esquires, be a committee to prepare a petition to the house of commons of Great-Britain, and lay the same before the congress on Monday next.

Then the congress adjourned to Monday next at twelve o'clock.

MONDAY, October 21, 1765, A. M.

The congress met according to adjournment.

The committee appointed to prepare and bring in an address to his Majesty, did
report,

report, that they had essayed a draught for that purpose, which they laid on the table, and humbly submitted to the correction of the congress.

The said address was read, and after fundry amendments, the same was approved of by the congress, and ordered to be ingrossed.

The committee appointed to prepare and bring in a memorial and petition to the lords in parliament, did report, That they had essayed a draught for that purpose, which they laid on the table, and humbly submitted to the correction of the congress.

The said address was read, and after fundry amendments, the same was approved of by the congress, and ordered to be ingrossed.

The committee appointed to prepare and bring in a petition to the house of commons of Great-Britain did report, That they had essayed a draught for that purpose, which they laid on the table, and humbly submitted to the correction of the congress.

The said address was read, and after fundry amendments, the same was approved of by the congress, and ordered to be ingrossed.

The congress adjourn to to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

TUESDAY, October 22, 1765, A. M.

The congress met according to adjournment.

The address to his Majesty being ingrossed, was read and compared, and is as follows, *viz.*

To the King's most Excellent MAJESTY.

The PETITION of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, and Providence plantations, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the government of the counties of New-Castle, Kent, and Suffex, upon Delaware, province of Maryland,

Most humbly sheweth,

THAT the inhabitants of these colonies, unanimously devoted with the warmest sentiments of duty and affection to your Majesty's sacred person and government, inviolably attached to the present happy establishment of the protestant succession in your illustrious house, and deeply sensible of your royal attention to their prosperity and happiness, humbly beg

beg leave to approach the throne, by representing to your Majesty, that these colonies were originally planted by subjects of the British crown, who, animated with the spirit of liberty, encouraged by your Majesty's royal predecessors, and confiding in the public faith for the enjoyment of all the rights and liberties essential to freedom, emigrated from their native country to this continent, and by their successful perseverance in the midst of innumerable dangers and difficulties, together with a profusion of their blood and treasure, have happily added these vast and valuable dominions to the empire of Great-Britain. That for the enjoyment of these rights and liberties, several governments were early formed in the said colonies, with full power of legislation, agreeable to the principles of the English constitution.

That under those governments, these liberties, thus vested in their ancestors, and transmitted to their posterity, have been exercised and enjoyed, and by the inestimable blessings thereof (under the favour of almighty God) the inhospitable desarts of America have been converted into flourishing countries; science, humanity, and the knowledge of divine truths, diffused through remote regions of ignorance,

rance, infidelity, and barbarism; the number of British subjects wonderfully increased, and the wealth and power of Great-Britain proportionably augmented.

That by means of these settlements, and the unparalleled success of your Majesty's arms, a foundation is now laid for rendering the British empire the most extensive and powerful of any recorded in history. Our connection with this empire, we esteem our greatest happiness and security, and humbly conceive it may now be so established by your royal wisdom, as to endure to the latest period of time; this, with most humble submission to your Majesty, we apprehend will be most effectually accomplished, by fixing the pillars thereof on liberty and justice, and securing the inherent rights and liberties of your subjects here, upon the principles of the English constitution. To this constitution these two principles are essential, the right of your faithful subjects, freely to grant to your Majesty, such aids as are required for the support of your government over them, and other public exigencies, and trials by their peers: by the one they are secured from unreasonable impositions; and by the other from arbitrary decisions of the executive power.

The continuation of these liberties to the inhabitants of America we ardently implore,

implore, as absolutely necessary to unite the several parts of your wide extended dominions, in that harmony so essential to the preservation and happiness of the whole. Protected in these liberties, the emoluments Great-Britain receives from us, however great at present, are inconsiderable, compared with those she has the fairest prospect of acquiring. By this protection she will for ever secure to herself the advantage of conveying to all Europe, the merchandises which America furnishes, and of supplying through the same channel whatever is wanted from thence. Here opens a boundless source of wealth and naval strength ; yet these immense advantages, by the abridgment of those invaluable rights and liberties, by which our growth has been nourished, are in danger of being for ever lost ; and our subordinate legislatures, in effect, rendered useless, by the late acts of parliament imposing duties and taxes on these colonies, and extending the jurisdiction of the courts of admiralty here, beyond its ancient limits : statutes by which your Majesty's commons in Britain undertake absolutely to dispose of the property of their fellow subjects in America, without their consent, and for the enforcing whereof, they are subjected to the determination of a single judge in a court unrestrained by the wise rules

rules of the common law, the birthright of Englishmen, and the safeguard of their persons and properties.

The invaluable rights of taxing ourselves, and trial by our peers, of which we implore your Majesty's protection, are not, we most humbly conceive unconstitutional; but confirmed by the great CHARTER of English liberty. On the first of these rights the honourable the house of commons found their practice of originating money bills, a right enjoyed by the kingdom of Ireland, by the clergy of England, until relinquished by themselves, a right, in fine, which all other your Majesty's English subjects, both within and without the realm, have hitherto enjoyed.

With hearts, therefore, impressed with the most indelible characters of gratitude to your Majesty, and to the memory of the kings of your illustrious house, whose reigns have been signally distinguished by their auspicious influence on the prosperity of the British dominions, and convinced by the most affecting proofs of your Majesty's paternal love to all your people, however distant, and your unceasing and benevolent desires to promote their happiness, we most humbly beseech your Majesty, that you will be graciously pleased
to

to take into your royal consideration the distresses of your faithful subjects on this continent, and to lay the same before your Majesty's parliament, and to afford them such relief, as in your royal wisdom their unhappy circumstances shall be judged to require.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will pray.

The memorial to the lords in parliament was read and compared, and is as follows, viz.

To the right honourable the lords spiritual and temporal of Great-Britain, in parliament assembled.

The MEMORIAL of the freeholders and others inhabitants of the Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, and Providence plantations, , New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the government of the counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Suffex, upon Delaware, province of Maryland,

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Most humbly sheweth,

THAT his Majesty's liege subjects in his American colonies, though they acknowledge a due subordination to that august body the British parliament, are entitled, in the opinion of your memorialists, to all the inherent rights and liberties of the natives of Great-Britain, and have ever since the Settlement of the said colonies exercised those rights and liberties, as far as their local circumstances would permit.

That your memorialists humbly conceive one of the most essential rights of these colonies, which they have ever, till lately, uninterruptedly enjoyed, to be trial by jury.

That your memorialists also humbly conceive another of these essential rights to be, the exemption from all taxes, but such as are imposed on the people by the several legislatures in these colonies, which right also they have, till of late, freely enjoyed.

But your memorialists humbly beg leave to represent to your lordships, that the act for granting certain stamp-duties in the British colonies in America, &c. fills his Majesty's American subjects with the
deepest

deepest concern, as it tends to deprive them of the two fundamental and invaluable rights and liberties above-mentioned, and that several other late acts of parliament, which extend the jurisdiction and powers of courts of admiralty in the plantations, beyond their limits in Great-Britain, thereby make an unnecessary and unhappy distinction as to the modes of trial, between us and our fellow subjects there, by whom we never have been excelled in duty and loyalty to our Sovereign.

That from the natural connection between Great-Britain and America, the perpetual continuance of which your memorialists most ardently desire, they conceive that nothing can conduce more to the interest of both, than the colonists free enjoyment of their rights and liberties, and an affectionate intercourse between Great-Britain and them. But your memorialists (not waving their claim to these rights, of which with the most becoming veneration and deference to the wisdom and justice of your lordships, they apprehend they cannot reasonably be deprived) humbly represent, That from the peculiar circumstances of these colonies, the duties imposed by the aforesaid act, and several other late acts of parliament, are extremely grievous and burthensome,

and the payment of the said duties will very soon, for want of specie, become absolutely impracticable; and that the restrictions on trade, by the said acts, will not only greatly distress the colonies, but must be extremely detrimental to the trade and true interest of Great-Britain.

Your memorialists, therefore, impressed with a just sense of the unfortunate circumstances of the colonies, and the impending destructive consequences which must necessarily ensue from the execution of those acts, animated with the warmest sentiments of filial affection for their mother country, most earnestly and humbly entreat, That your lordships will be pleased to hear their counsel in support of this memorial, and take the premisses into your most serious consideration, and that your lordships will also be thereupon pleased to pursue such measures for restoring the just rights and liberties of the colonies, and preserving them for ever inviolate, for redressing their present, and preventing future grievances, thereby promoting the united interest of Great-Britain and America, as to your lordships, in your great wisdom shall seem most conducive and effectual to that important end.

*And your memorialists as in duty bound
will ever pray.*

WEDNES-

WEDNESDAY, October 23, 1765, A. M.

The congress met according to adjournment.

The petition to the house of commons being ingrossed, was read and compared, and is as follows, *viz.*

To the honourable the knights, citizens, and burgeses of Great-Britain, in parliament assembled.

The PETITION of his Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the freeholders and other inhabitants of the colonies of the Massachusetts-bay, Rhode-island, and Providence plantations, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the government of the counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Suffex, upon Delaware, Maryland,

Most humbly sheweth,

THAT the several late acts of parliament, imposing divers duties and taxes on the colonies, and laying the trade and commerce thereof under very burthensome restrictions, but above all the act for granting and applying certain stamp-duties, &c. in America, have fill'd them

them with the deepest concern and surprize; and they humbly conceive the execution of them will be attended with consequences very injurious to the commercial interest of Great-Britain and her colonies, and must terminate in the eventual ruin of the latter.

Your petitioners therefore most ardently implore the attention of the honourable house, to the united and dutiful representation of their circumstances, and to their earnest supplications for relief, from those regulations which have already involved this continent in anxiety, confusion, and distress.

We most sincerely recognize our allegiance to the crown, and acknowledge all due subordination to the parliament of Great-Britain, and shall always retain the most grateful sense of their assistance and protection. It is from and under the English constitution, we derive all our civil and religious rights and liberties: we glory in being subjects of the best of kings, and having been born under the most perfect form of government; but it is with most ineffable and humiliating sorrow, that we find ourselves, of late, deprived of the right of granting our own property for his Majesty's service, to which our lives and fortunes are entirely devoted, and
to

to which, on his royal requisitions, we have ever been ready to contribute to the utmost of our abilities.

We have also the misfortune to find, that all the penalties and forfeitures mentioned in the stamp-act, and in divers late acts of trade extending to the plantations, are, at the election of the informer, recoverable in any court of admiralty in America. This, as the newly erected court of admiralty has a general jurisdiction over all British America, renders his Majesty's subjects in these colonies, liable to be carried, at an immense expence, from one end of the continent to the other.

It gives us also great pain to see a manifest distinction made therein, between the subjects of our mother country, and those in the colonies, in that the like penalties and forfeitures recoverable there only in his Majesty's court of record, are made cognizable here by a court of admiralty: by these means we seem to be, in effect, unhappily deprived of two privileges essential to freedom, and which all Englishmen have ever considered as their best birthrights, that of being free from all taxes but such as they have consented to in person, or by their representatives, and of trial by their peers.

Your

Your petitioners further shew, That the remote situation, and other circumstances of the colonies, render it impracticable that they should be represented, but in their respective subordinate legislature; and they humbly conceive, that the parliament, adhering strictly to the principles of the constitution, have never hitherto taxed any but those who were actually therein represented; for this reason, we humbly apprehend, they never have taxed Ireland, or any other of the subjects without the realm.

But were it ever so clear, that the colonies might in law be reasonably deem'd to be represented in the honourable house of commons, yet we conceive, that very good reasons, from inconvenience, from the principles of true policy, and from the spirit of the British constitution, may be adduced to shew, that it would be for the real interest of Great-Britain, as well as her colonies, that the late regulations should be rescinded, and the several acts of parliament imposing duties and taxes on the colonies, and extending the jurisdiction of the courts of admiralty here, beyond their ancient limits, should be repeal'd.

We shall not attempt a minute detail of all the reasons which the wisdom of the honour-

honourable house may suggest, on this occasion, but would humbly submit the following particulars to their consideration.

That money is already become very scarce in these colonies, and is still decreasing by the necessary exportation of specie from the continent, for the discharge of our debts to British merchants.

That an immensely heavy debt is yet due from the colonies for British manufactures, and that they are still heavily burthen'd with taxes to discharge the arrearages due for aids granted by them in the late war.

That the balance of trade will ever be much against the colonies, and in favour of Great-Britain, whilst we consume her manufactures, the demand for which must ever increase in proportion to the number of inhabitants settled here, with the means of purchasing them. We therefore humbly conceive it to be the interest of Great-Britain, to increase, rather than diminish, those means, as the profits of all the trade of the colonies ultimately center there to pay for her manufactures, as we are not allowed to purchase elsewhere; and by the consumption of which, at the advanced prices the British taxes oblige the makers and venders

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to set on them, we eventually contribute very largely to the revenue of the crown.

That from the nature of American business, the multiplicity of suits and papers used in matters of small value, in a country where freeholds are so minutely divided, and property so frequently transferr'd, a stamp-duty must ever be very burthensome and unequal.

That it is extremely improbable that the honourable house of commons should, at all times, be thoroughly acquainted with our condition, and all facts requisite to a just and equal taxation of the colonies.

It is also humbly submitted, Whether there be not a material distinction in reason and sound policy, at least, between the necessary exercise of parliamentary jurisdiction in general acts, for the amendment of the common law, and the regulation of trade and commerce through the whole empire, and the exercise of that jurisdiction, by imposing taxes on the colonies.

That the several subordinate provincial legislatures have been moulded into forms, as nearly resembling that of their mother country, as by his Majesty's royal predecessors was thought convenient; and their legislatures seem to have been wisely and graciously established, that the subjects in
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the colonies might, under the due administration thereof, enjoy the happy fruits of the British government, which in their present circumstances they cannot be so fully and clearly availed of, any other way under these forms of government we and our ancestors have been born or settled, and have had our lives, liberties and properties protected. The people here, as every where else, retain a great fondness for their old customs and usages, and we trust that his Majesty's service, and the interest of the nation, so far from being obstructed, have been vastly promoted by the provincial legislatures.

That we esteem our connections with, and dependance on Great-Britain, as one of our greatest blessings, and apprehend the latter will appear to be sufficiently secure, when it is considered, that the inhabitants in the colonies have the most unbounded affection for his Majesty's person, family and government, as well as for the mother country, and that their subordination to the parliament, is universally acknowledged.

We, therefore, most humbly entreat, That the honourable house would be pleased to hear our counsel in support of this petition, and take our distressed and deplorable case into their serious consider-

ation, and that the acts and clauses of acts, so grievously restraining our trade and commerce, imposing duties and taxes on our property, and extending the jurisdiction of the court of admiralty beyond its ancient limits, may be repeal'd; or that the honourable house would otherwise relieve your petitioners, as in your great wisdom and goodness shall seem meet.

And your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Then the congress adjourned till tomorrow morning, ten o'clock.

THURSDAY, October 24, 1765.

The congress met according to adjournment.

The congress took into consideration the manner in which their several petitions should be preferred and solicited in Great-Britain, and came to the following determination, viz.

It is recommended by the congress, to the several colonies, to appoint special agents for soliciting relief from their great grievances, and unite their utmost interest and endeavours for that purpose.

Voted

Voted unanimously, That the clerk of this congress sign the minutes of their proceedings, and deliver a copy for the use of each colony and province.

By order of the congress,

JOHN COTTON, Clerk.

Savannah, in Georgia, September 6, 1765.

S I R,

(COPY.) YOUR letter dated in June last, acquainting me, that the house of representatives of your province, had unanimously agreed to propose a meeting at the city of New-York, of committees, from the houses of representatives of the several British colonies on this continent, on the first Tuesday in October next, to consult together on the present circumstances of the colonies, and the difficulties to which they are, and must be reduced, by the operation of the acts of parliament for laying duties and taxes on the colonies, and to consider of an humble representation of their condition to his Majesty and the parliament, and to implore relief, came to hand at an unlucky season, it being in the recess of the

the general assembly of this province; nevertheless, immediately upon the receipt of your letter, I dispatched expresses to the several representatives of this province, acquainting them with the purport thereof, and requesting them to meet at this place without delay, and accordingly they met here on Monday last, to the number of sixteen, being a large majority of the representatives of this province, the whole consisting of twenty-five persons; but his excellency our governor being applied to, did not think it expedient to call them together on the occasion, which is the reason of their not sending a committee, as proposed by your house, for you may be assured, Sir, that no representatives on this continent can more sincerely concur in the measures proposed, than do the representatives of this province now met together, neither can any people, as individuals, more warmly espouse the common cause of the colonies, than do the people of this province.

The gentlemen now present, request it as a favour, you'll be pleased to send me a copy of such representation as may be agreed upon by the several committees at New-York, and to acquaint me how, and in what manner, the same is to be laid before the king and parliament, whether
by

by any person particularly authorized for that purpose, or by the colony agents. The general assembly of this province stands prorogued to the 22d day of October next, which is the time it generally meets for the dispatch of the ordinary business of the province; and I doubt not the representatives of this province will then, in their legislative capacity, take under consideration the grievances so justly complained of, and transmit their sense of the same to Great-Britain, in such way as may seem best calculated to obtain redress, and so as to convince the sister colonies of their inviolable attachment to the common cause. I am, SIR,

Your most obedient,

And most humble servant,

ALEXANDER WILLY.

To SAMUEL WHITE, Esq; Speaker
of the House of Representatives of
Massachusetts, &c. }

New-Hampshire.

Mr. Speaker laid before the house a letter from the honourable Speaker of the honourable house of representatives of the province of the Massachusetts-bay, to the Speaker of this assembly, proposing a meeting of committees, from the several assemblies of the British colonies on the continent,

continent, at New-York, to consider of a general, united, dutiful, loyal, and humble representation of our circumstances, and for imploring his Majesty and the parliament for relief: which being read,

Resolved, That notwithstanding we are sensible such representation ought to be made, and approve of the proposed method for obtaining thereof, yet the present situation of our governmental affairs will not permit us to appoint a committee to attend such meeting, but shall be ready to join in any address to his Majesty and the parliament we may be honoured with the knowledge of, probable to answer the proposed end.

A. CLARKSON, Clerk.

The two foregoing letters are true copies from the original.

Attest. JOHN COTTON, Clerk.

Adjourned to to-morrow morning nine o'clock.

FRIDAY, October 25, 1765.

The congress met according to adjournment.

Time not permitting the clerk to make copies at large, of the proceedings of the congress,

congress, for all the colonies, they think it proper, should be furnished therewith;

Resolved, That the gentlemen from the Massachusetts-bay be requested to send a copy thereof to the colony of New Hampshire; the gentlemen of Maryland to Virginia; and the gentlemen of South Carolina to Georgia, and North Carolina.

Signed per order,

J. COTTON, Clerk.

An account of the disposition of the £.500 granted by ordinance, and received of the treasurer, by William Murdock, Edward Tilghman, and Thomas Ringgold.

To cash paid the whole expences of the committee to New York, there and back again.	£. s. d.	By cash received of the Treasurer in gold, £.500, at 5/6 per dwt. as follows:	
To cash paid express to New York, to give notice of our coming.	138 14 1		
To paid for express, to send a copy of our proceedings to the Speaker of Virginia.	15	409 Spanish pistoles, at 27/6.	£. s. d. 532 3
To paid for a bill of exchange, to remit to Charles Garth, Esq; with the address and petitions 150/ sterling, at 65 per cent. exchange. - -	1 10	5 Half Johannes, at 57/6.	14 7 6
Cash remaining in hand 127 pistoles, and 18/8.	247 10	4 French pistoles, at 26/6.	5 6
		1 Moidore, - - -	2 3 6
		1 Half ditto, - - -	1 1 9
	575 1 9		575 1 9

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October

October 26, 1765.

S I R,

WE had the honour to be appointed by the house of representatives of the province of Maryland, a committee, to meet committees of the members of assembly of the other colonies on this continent, at New York, the first of this instant, to join in a general, and united, dutiful, loyal, and humble representation of the condition of those colonies, to his Majesty and the parliament, and to implore relief from the grievous burthens lately laid upon our trade, and the taxes and duties lately imposed on us, especially by the Stamp-act.

Accordingly members from nine colonies met, to wit, from the Massachusetts-bay, Connecticut, Rhode-island and Providence plantations, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the government of the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex, upon Delaware, Maryland, and South Carolina, but as you'll find the address, &c. signed only by members from six of those colonies, it may be proper to acquaint you with the reasons why they did not all sign, though they all concurred with the proceedings.

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The lieutenant-governor of New-York prorogued their assembly from time to time, so that their house had not an opportunity of appointing members with full powers to join, and sign the address, &c. Yet the assembly of New-York having, at their last meeting, appointed five of their members as a committee, not only to correspond with their agent at home, but also during the recess of the house, to write to and correspond with the several assemblies, or committees of assemblies on this continent, on the subject matter of the several late acts of parliament, so grievous and dangerous to their colonies, it was thought proper to admit this committee to join in the conferences, and they agreed to what was done, and promised to use their endeavours with their assembly to concur also whenever they should be permitted to meet.

The South-Carolina assembly, not rightly viewing the proposal (which originally came from the assembly of the government of the Massachusetts-bay) as it was intended that the several committees, when met, should frame and sign an address to his Majesty, and memorial and petition to the parliament, to be immediately dispatched by the congress, instructed their members (Messrs. Lynch,

Rutledge, and Gadsden) to return their proceedings to them for approbation. The Connecticut assembly made the same restrictions in their instructions. The assembly also of New Hampshire wrote, that they had resolved, That notwithstanding they were sensible such a representation ought to be made, and approved of the proposed method for obtaining thereof, yet the present situation of their governmental affairs would not permit them to appoint a committee to attend such meeting, but should be ready to join in any address to his Majesty and the parliament they might be honoured with the knowledge of, probable to answer the proposed end: and the Speaker of the assembly of Georgia wrote, that a majority of their members had applied to the governor to call their assembly, and he did not think it expedient, which was the reason they did not send a committee as proposed, but requested us to transmit a copy of our proceedings to them (which will be done) and that their assembly would meet about this time, and he did not doubt but they should act so as to convince the sister colonies of their inviolable attachment to the common cause: we also understood the North-Carolina, and we know the Virginia assembly was prorogued, whereby they could

could not have the opportunity of joining us; so that we doubt not but the colonies who have not signed, will very speedily transmit similar addresses, &c. if their assemblies should not be hindered from meeting: and to this purpose, we hope you'll soon hear from the assembly of South-Carolina. By the gentlemen of that colony we were favoured with a sight of your late letters, and informed of your careful and spirited conduct with regard to the interests of that colony, and that, together with your declaration which we find in those letters, that you enjoy an independent seat in the British parliament, induced us (as we have no established agent at present, for this province, nor have yet been able to obtain a law to tax ourselves for that purpose) to trouble you with our request, that you will present the inclosed address to his Majesty, and memorial and petition to the houses of parliament, and exert your utmost interest and abilities in behalf of this poor distressed country, and of this province in particular.

We hope, as there is a change in the ministry, and as the gentlemen in the house of commons may, at their next meeting, take a more enlarged view of the true interest of Great-Britain and her colonies, they will find it to be in supporting

porting the rights and encouraging the trade of the latter, and that the happiness of the mother-country and her colonies must be inseparable, and that we shall obtain relief.

The several committees agreed to recommend it to their respective colonies, to appoint special agents on this occasion, and to instruct them to unite their utmost interest and endeavours for that purpose. One address, &c. was transmitted by the gentlemen of the Massachusetts government, immediately to their agent (Mr. Jackson we understood) and we expect the other colonies will have duplicates sent to their agents, and we hope will all unite in expence and instructions, to have able counsel before both the lords and commons, as our petitions pray.

We were intrusted with the disposition of some money upon this occasion, and inclose you a bill of exchange, on Messrs. Capel and Osgood Hanbury, for one hundred and fifty pounds sterling, as a compensation for your trouble and expence in this affair. We doubt not our assembly will approve of what we do in this matter; and as they are to meet the last of this month, we shall lay our proceedings before them, and it is probable they will write you more fully, and furnish

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nish you with such further instructions and arguments as may appear to them to be proper to be given and urged on this occasion, in behalf of the colonies.

We are,

Your most obedient servants.

F I N I S.

